

Claims:

1. An article having on at least a portion of its surface a coating comprising:

at least one layer comprised of nickel;

layer comprised of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy; and

layer comprised of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound.

2. The article of claim 1 wherein said compound is selected from oxides, carbides, carbonitrides and nitrides.

3. The article of claim 2 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy is comprised of zirconium or zirconium-titanium alloy.

4. The article of claim 3 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium or zirconium-titanium alloy is comprised of zirconium.

5. The article of claim 4 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound is comprised of zirconium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound.

6. The article of claim 5 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound is comprised of zirconium compound.

7. The article of claim 6 wherein said zirconium compound is zirconium nitride.

8. The article of claim 3 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium or zirconium-titanium alloy is comprised of zirconium-titanium alloy.

9. The article of claim 8 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound is comprised of zirconium-titanium alloy compound.

10. The article of claim 9 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium-titanium alloy compound is comprised of zirconium-titanium nitride.

11. The article of claim 1 wherein said at least one layer comprised of nickel is comprised of two different layers comprised of nickel.

12. The article of claim 11 wherein one of said layers comprised of nickel is comprised of semi-bright nickel.

13. The article of claim 12 wherein the second of said layers comprised of nickel is comprised of bright nickel.

14. An article having on at least a portion of its surface a coating comprising:

layer comprised of semi-bright nickel;

layer comprised of bright nickel;

layer comprised of chrome;

layer comprised of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy; and

layer comprised of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound.

15. The article of claim 14 wherein said compound is selected from oxides, carbides, carbonitrides and nitrides.

16. The article of claim 14 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy is comprised of zirconium.

17. The article of claim 15 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound is comprised of zirconium compound.

18. The article of claim 17 wherein said zirconium compound is zirconium nitride.

19. The article of claim 14 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy is comprised of zirconium-titanium alloy.

20. The article of claim 19 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound is comprised of zirconium-titanium alloy compound.

21. The article of claim 20 wherein said zirconium-titanium alloy compound is zirconium-titanium alloy nitride.

22. An article having on at least a portion of its surface a coating comprising:

layer comprised of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy; and

layer comprised of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound.

23. The article of claim 22 wherein said compound is selected from carbides, oxides, nitrides and carbonitrides.

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24. The article of claim 23 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound is comprised of zirconium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound.

25. The article of claim 24 wherein said compounds are nitrides.

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26. The article of claim 24 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy is comprised of zirconium or zirconium-titanium alloy.

27. The article of claim 26 wherein said layer comprised of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy is comprised of zirconium or zirconium-titanium alloy.